



# Welcome to... San Juan del Sur Nicaragua

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Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity  
VOSH - Connecticut  
Seventh Annual Mission - January 12-19, 2008

Dr. Matthew & Audrey Blondin  
Clinic Co-Directors

# Nicaragua

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- ❑ The population is approximately 5.4 million (2005).
- ❑ Life expectancy at birth is approximately 70 years(2006).
- ❑ Gross per capita income is approximately \$994 (2006).
- ❑ 20% of children suffer from malnutrition.
- ❑ Common diseases include malaria, dengue and tuberculosis.







**HONDURAS**

Santa Rita El Llano, Siguatepeque, Tegucigalpa, Juticalpa, Dulce Nombre de Culmí, Lempira, Awasbilla, Waspam, Lemus, Rio Patuca, Rio Coco, Rio Wawa, Bocay, Bonanza, La Rosita, Kukalaya, Puerto Cabezas, Rio Guaymas, Rio Choluteca, Danlí, Teoteacinte, Yuscaran, Ocotol, Quilali, Wiwili, Rio Coco, Rio Prinzapolka, Prinzipolka, Rio Tuma, Rio Grande de Matagalpa, La Cruz de Rio Grande, NUEVA SEGOVIA, MADRIZ, San Sebastián de Yalí, San Miguel, Nacaome, Somoto, Condega, Estelí, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Río Blanco, Nuevo Amanecer, Choluteca, Somotillo, El Sauce, Sébaco, Muy Muy, Río Siquia, Río Mico, Rama, Chinandega, Corinto, León, Puerto Sandino, Managua, San Benito, Jipitapa, Masaya, Granada, Lovago, Bluefields, El Bluff, Masachapa, CARAZO, Jigotape, Masaya, Nueva Guinea, Río SAN JUAN, Río Indio, Río San Juan, San Carlos, San Juan del Norte, Masachapa, Rivas, San Juan del Sur, Coco, las Cañas, Puerto Viejo, Río Chirripó.

**ZELAYA**

**CHONTALES**

**COSTA RICA**

**NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN**

**Caribbean Sea**

**Golfo de Fonseca**

**Lago de Managua**

**Lago de Nicaragua**

**Inter American Highway**

# Mission Members

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- ❑ The team consisted of:
- ❑ 6 Optometrists
  - Dr. Matthew Blondin
  - Dr. Jerry Hardison
  - Dr. Brian Lynch
  - Dr. Abby Quinn
  - Dr. Michael Gordon
  - Dr. David Kendrick
- ❑ 1 Medical student
  - Nicholas Blondin
- ❑ 12 Optometry students
- ❑ 2 Opticians
- ❑ Support Staff & Translators





CT Optometrists Dr. Jerry Hardison, Dr. Brian Lynch, Dr. Abby Quinn & Dr. Matthew Blondin

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# Eye Care Clinic

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- During the 4 day mission, 2,428 patients were seen.



**Patients seen at the clinic site have no access to needed follow-up medical or eye care. Patients were seen with hypertension, cataracts, large goiters and suspected carcinomas among other maladies, none of which can be treated and often doom the patient to a lifetime of chronic illness or even death.**







Center Church Square in San Juan del Sur.







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Dr. Brian Lynch examines a patient.

# Donations

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Special Thanks to Iffland Lumber of Torrington for aprons.



Special Thanks to LaMonica's Restaurant and Catering for Candy





Thanks to Virginia Lions Club For Donated Eyeglass Frames and Optician Dottie Byus from Encore Optical.



Opticians Dottie Byus and Mareshah Lynch along with helper Nick Gordon.





Donations from people like you, which not only keep this mission running each year, but are putting new sunglasses on all the faces of San Juan del Sur Citizens young and old.



**Caps For Kids** Supplies Baseball Hats to Citizens of San Juan del Sur.











# President Daniel Ortega

- ❑ Anti-American sentiment is growing, encouraged by Ortega and his Sandinista government. Nicaragua remains the second poorest country in the western hemisphere, with an average per capita income of approximately \$700.







Dr. Jerry Hardison examines a patient.

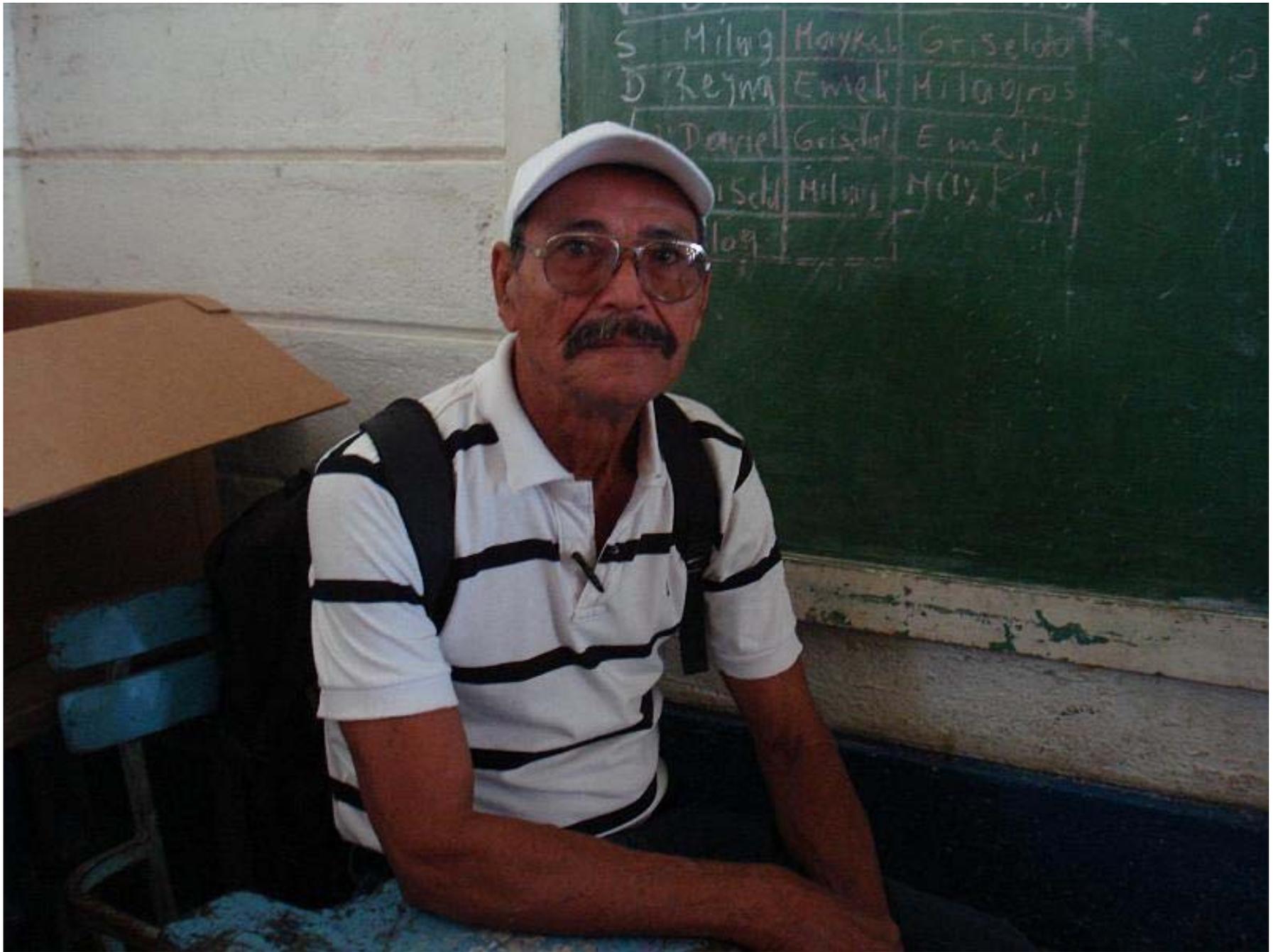


Thanks to the members of the security for keeping our clinic safe.





Tommy Thompson on his 5<sup>th</sup> VOSH-CT Mission at age 85!!!



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*During a break from mission activities, Dr. Matthew Blondin and son Nicholas were surrounded by Nicaraguan army personnel with A-K 47 rifles and briefly detained during a hike on a beach to take some pictures. Only after a detailed explanation of their volunteer work on behalf of VOSH-CT were they allowed to go free.*





Daily Meeting along with Dra. Rosa Elena Bello and “Jefa Segunda” Joyce Krinitsky.



Dr. Blondin gets a hair cut from Wendell!!!



Dr. Michael Gordon gets a shave from Wendell!!



Jefa gets a haircut!!

# Lake Nicaragua

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**Lake Nicaragua** is the largest lake in Central America.

With an elevation of 105 feet above sea level, the lake reaches a depth of 84 feet.

Lake Nicaragua, despite being a freshwater lake, contains swordfish, tarpon, and sharks, including the Lake Nicaragua Shark, which is fully adapted to freshwater life.

Due to this fact and the lake's small distance from the Pacific Ocean, scientists believe that the area which is now the lake used to be a giant bay. Over time, the gap closed and a lake was formed with the sharks still inside of it.

This area pictured is used for washing clothes.





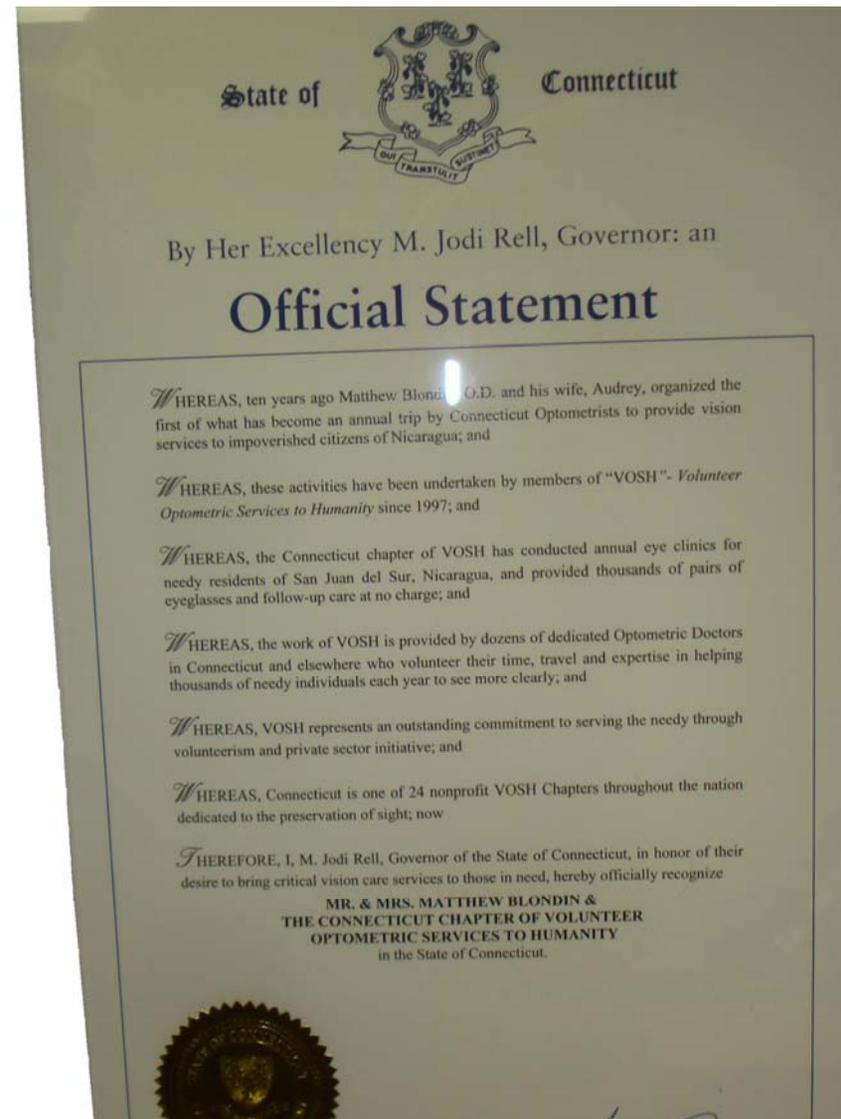


Living conditions on  
Lake Nicaragua.



# VOSH-CT Receives a Citation

- At the end of the mission, Dr. Matthew & Audrey Blondin were presented with a citation by mission member Dr. Brian Lynch from Governor Jodi Rell, in recognition of the services provided by VOSH-Connecticut.







Next year's mission is planned for. . .  
January 10-17, 2009.

